

**Mrs. Laura Fay**  
**<http://www.fayela.org/>**  
**English Language Arts (ELA)**  
**2020/2021 Syllabus**

This year is going to be an exciting time for all of us and I want you to know that it is my primary goal to help each one of you succeed. I am excited to welcome you to Hanshaw Middle School for the 2020/2021 school year. My goal as your teacher is to help you grow in knowledge that will positively shape your future and provide you with the tools and skills you need to be successful academically and socially. Be ready to work hard, have lots of fun as we learn and grow together this year!

**Course Objective:** English Language Arts is a yearlong course designed to integrate and enforce your skills in the areas of reading and comprehension, writing, listening, critical thinking, grammar (usage, mechanics), speaking, and appreciation of literature. **You must pass this course to graduate!**

Students are required to complete several narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces of writing. Throughout the school year, students will read non-fiction and informational materials, novels, and shorter pieces of literature to discuss and analyze. Curriculum comes from StudySync. Possible novels we will cover are: Call of the Wild by Jack London, The Giver by Lois Lowry, Harriet Tubman: Underground Railroad Conductor by Ann Petry, and Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick.

### **Parents & Guardians**

Welcome to the 2020/2021 school year! I look forward to working with you to help your student make this a successful school year! Please review the classroom policies in detail with your student. Take a moment and discuss with your student the importance of earning the highest grade possible. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any questions or concerns you have regarding classroom policies, grades or assignments.

My office hours are:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 am to 9 am

Monday-Friday: 2:30 pm to 3 pm

**Any emails received after office hours will be replied to the following day**

**\*Please email me for alternate office hours during distance learning.**

I look forward to helping your student make this a very successful year!

# CLASSROOM INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

**Grading Categories:** class work, quizzes, tests, writing assignments/projects

## Grade Scale

90% - 100% = **A**  
89% - 80% = **B**  
79% - 70% = **C**  
69% - 60% = **D**  
< 50% = **F**

## Extra Credit

No, you will not have an option to earn extra credit. However, if you may redo 1 teacher approved assignment during the **semester it was assigned** and at least **one week before the semester ends**.

## Homework

Homework consists of **weekly readings and assignments associated with the reading**. Additionally any work assigned during class but is not completed during class become homework!

**Missing assignments, incomplete assignments and late work are simply not an option in this class**. **Turning in work that does NOT represent your best effort is unacceptable**. If this happens, I will ask you to redo the assignment or contact your parents/guardians to set up a meeting so we can find a way to make sure you start turning your work in completed and on time.

## When you are absent from class...

Look on the calendar on **Schoology** to find what you missed during your absences. Ultimately, it is **your responsibility to ask and turn in anything that you miss**. Also, if you do not understand something we covered in class, please contact me during my office hours or during our classes designated time on Wednesdays and I will be happy to go over everything with you!

**Extra Help!!!!** If you are struggling, don't panic, take a deep and try to relax! All of us struggle sometimes. **The key to overcoming our struggles is to not give up and ask for help**. If you need extra help, feel free to come and see me during my office hours or take advantage of Hanshaw's tutoring programs.

My office hours are:

Monday-Friday **8:30 am to 9 am**

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## Bring these items to class everyday!

- **A fully charged** student device
- Device charging cord (labeled with your first & last name; student ID #)
- Earbuds (may only be used with teacher permission)
- Pencils
- Binder Paper
- Highlighters
- 1 Three ring binder (A 2" binder will accommodate all your classes.)
- 6 Binder dividers (One divider for each core class.)

Underlined items are  
not required until  
class on campus  
resumes

## Procedures (on campus only)

- Line up outside my classroom, up against the wall so, don't stand in the middle of the hallway. Once I **have invited you** in to my classroom, you will **quietly** enter, go to and sit in your assigned seat.
- Students not in the classroom when the bell rings are tardy.
- Students **may not use the restroom the first or last ten minutes of class**. Please ask me to use the restroom. It is my discretion if permission is granted. Students who abuse this restroom policy will **not** have restroom privileges in my class. Students with special restroom needs must have a parent/guardian contact the office and file a doctor's note with the nurse.
- Before leaving each day, I **will dismiss you NOT the bell**. Your area must be clean and organized before you leave my classroom.

## Every student is expected to...

- come to class; log into Schoology during the designated time everyday and must remain logged in until dismissed
- stay on task
- not play games or browse the internet during class time
- ask thoughtful questions/ ask for feedback/ recognize and correct mistakes
- provide appropriate responses during class discussions/ be an attentive listener

## Rules

- Follow all HMS and Modesto City Schools rules and procedures.
- When the teacher is talking, **you are not**.
- No food, drinks (except for water), or gum. (on campus instruction only)
- No cell phones during instruction! **If you have a cell phone with you, turn it off and put it away.**
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Respect others and their opinions.

## Consequences for not following the rules

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense - Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - Separation from class, discussion about behavior, and phone call home
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - Given a referral and a lunch detention

**In some cases, such as physical/verbal threats of violence or volatile bullying, you will immediately be removed from the classroom and receive a referral.**

*During distance learning students will be given one warning when he or she violates rules or expectations. The warning will come in the form of a message or Schoology Conference. If behavior does not improve a formal meeting will be set with the students parents/guardians to address the issue and create a plan for success.*

**Disclaimer:** The syllabus **is subject to change** as the year progresses and each class/student demonstrates a need for various modifications and adaptations in order to succeed and meet the course objectives.

**Mrs. Laura Fay's Classroom Guidelines for Success Contract**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ have read the English syllabus. We understand the course requirements, materials needed, policies, procedures, and rules necessary to succeed in this course.

Student Name (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name  
(PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_